

BEYOND THE GRIND

WALKING IN FAVOR. LEADING IN POWER.

WALKING IN FAVOR

January 5, 2025

BIG IDEA:

God's favor is the grace that carries us through life's grind and shapes us for His purpose.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

1 Samuel 13:11–14

1 Samuel 16:11–13

1 Samuel 17:37

Psalms 5:12

Psalms 37:5

Psalms 84:11

Psalms 90:17

Proverbs 3:3–4

Proverbs 16:12

Esther 2:17

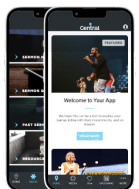
Esther 4:14

Daniel 6:4

Luke 2:52

Ephesians 2:8–9

Ephesians 3:16



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1. How do you typically approach the start of a new year—through resolutions, goals, or choosing a word—and how might aligning with God's favor change your focus?
2. What does Psalm 90:17 teach us about allowing God to establish the work of our hands, even in the grind of everyday life?
3. Can you identify a specific area of your life where you've been trying to earn God's approval or blessings? How does the truth of unmerited favor, described in Ephesians 2:8–9, free you to focus on growing in grace rather than striving for perfection?
4. How should the idea that God's favor doesn't guarantee an easy life, as seen in the lives of Joseph, Jeremiah, and Jesus, challenge our expectations?
5. In what ways can entitlement creep into your relationship with God, and how can humility and trust combat it?
6. How do Psalm 5:12 and Psalm 84:11 shape your understanding of favor as both a shield and sustaining strength in difficult times?
7. How could understanding the relationship between unmerited favor, freely given by God, and cultivated favor, grown through integrity and faithfulness, shape the way we live out our faith?
8. What practices can you adopt, like Daniel, to cultivate favor with people?
9. How do you understand Luke 2:52, where Jesus grew in favor with people? How do you picture this?
10. Can you think of a time when you treated your relationship with God like a transaction—expecting blessings in return for your actions? How might focusing on favor as relational and transformative shift your approach to prayer, worship, or obedience?
11. How can you learn from David's preparation as a shepherd to embrace God's refining process before stepping into greater responsibilities?
12. What steps can you take to trust God's timing and positioning in your life, like Esther, even when the path seems uncertain?